

OBSERVATIONS
UPON THE
VENEREAL DISEASE,
With some Remarks on the Cure of
BARRENNESS, IMPOTENCE,
AND
CERTAIN DISORDERS

INCIDENT TO EITHER SEX,

From the pernicious Habits of Youth ;

Tending to Recommend a superior mode of Treatment, free from the danger as well as the uncertainty of the common Method, by which slight Cases are easily as well as thoroughly eradicated ; and those which had baffled the efforts of Surgery, are permanently as well as speedily removed.

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By MARTIN BREE, SURGEON.

Sold by J. MATTHEWS, Book-seller, No. 18, in the STRAND;
And at the AUTHOR'S House, No. 77, MARK LANE.

VENEREAL DISEASE

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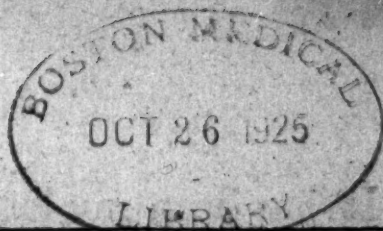
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INCIDENT TO EITHER

From the pernicious habits of Youth

and that who had killed in the name of Europe, the
by which right means to be a great number of the
the danger as well as the uncertainty of the present situation
leading to the removal of the British from the country.

BY MAIL FROM NEW YORK



INTRODUCTION.

THE following Observations are directed towards the cure of the Venereal Disease, Barrenness, Impotence, and certain debilitating consequences of a habit which is equally injurious to the health, and subversive of the morals of the rising generation.

Of the diseases incident to the human frame, there are none more disregarded by inattentive practitioners, or thoughtless patients; nor are there any more fatal in their consequences, than the subjects of the present consideration.

It

It has been my lot to have had much experience in this branch of surgery, and from having assiduously attended to the improvements of it, I may presume to offer these Remarks as not unworthy the perusal of the junior faculty, but more particularly tending to caution the public against deleterious methods of re-establishment.

By the temporary cures which are so frequently resorted to, the constitution becomes gradually undermined, and those seeds of disorder which at first might easily have been eradicated, are suffered to disseminate themselves, till the whole frame is poisoned by their baneful influence.

In giving these Observations, I do not profess complete instructions to medical practitioners, who, before they venture to prescribe for any species of disease, should have carefully perused each esteemed author on the subject; but I trust that the treatment which I recommend

mend will not be found entirely unworthy their consideration ; or, at least, will lay the foundation for future improvement in so important a line of practice.

Notwithstanding the volumes which have been written on these complaints, it cannot be denied that the most eminent of the faculty occasionally fail in the treatment of them : After they have exhausted the resources of their skill, the unfortunate patient is too frequently consigned to resignation or despair.

Although the disorders upon which I treat are the sole province of the regular surgeon, yet every physician and every apothecary (if we except the most respectable part of the profession) will greedily grasp at all the cases submitted to their inspection : Unfortunately, by this extension of practice to so diffusive a scale, the energy of thought is diminished, and the beaten track disgracefully adhered to.

It

It would be well if the legislature compelled those who are regular of the faculty to direct their principal efforts to one branch of the profession; and those who are not regularly educated, should be restrained from sporting with the health or the lives of their fellow-creatures.

By the absurd prejudice of some who rail at every species of innovation, indiscriminate censure is unjustly applied, and the surgeon, or the physician, who adds to the stock of improvement, is frequently confounded with the ignorant empiric, who, by making a trade of medicine, disgraces the science, and casts a slur upon the profession.

A physician of some repute has cautioned the public against the performers of hasty cures; but I must observe, that man has as little claim to the popularity of benevolence, who can inconsiderately
advise

advise his readers to prescribe their own applications.

Much danger may be incurred by the ignorance or by the inattention of the medical practitioner; but surely the most ignorant, or the most inattentive, cannot be so liable to err, as the man who uneducated in physic, unskilled in the anatomy of the human frame, and unacquainted with medicine, unless by intuition or the inspection of a pamphlet, rashly ventures on the cure of his own complaints, and by invading the province of the surgeon, makes progress for the undertaker,

When agonized by pain, or suffering the tedium of disease, the most skilful of the profession appeals to the advice of his cotemporaries; for at this period our passions are too much engaged to exercise the powers of prescription, nor can the most resolute possess self-command

mand sufficient for the dictates of unbiassed reason.

I enquire if it has not occurred in the practice of others as well as in my own, that the very worst and most dangerous cases have been those of sea-faring men, where a long voyage in small vessels without a surgeon had rendered it impossible to procure professional assistance, and a necessity has consequently existed of trusting to these *Domestic Treatises*.

May such deplorable consequences be confined to cases of necessity; but where professional ability can easily and readily be obtained, the incautious self-prescriber deserves the punishment of his rashness.

When I belonged to the 10th Regiment of Light Dragoons, an Officer of the highest rank gave to another, in my presence, the following prescription for the cure of a Gonorrhoea.

Take

Take of Extract of Goulard thirty drops, two drachms of Spirits of Camphor, mix them with six ounces of Rose Water, and let the mixture be injected four times a day. I should be sorry to see any friend whom I esteemed avail himself of such an act of kindness, by using this injection, and yet worse remedies are daily resorted to from the same inattentive mode of proceeding.

Dr. WATTS observes that a life of learning is not a life of ease, and it may with equal propriety be remarked, that the acquirement of medicinal knowledge, and the ability of a skilful prescriber, cannot be attained by the cursory reading of a few authors, or the jocular information of a good companion.

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE.

THERE are two separate complaints which are classed under the general title of the Venereal Disease. To one, or to the other of these species all the various symptoms may be ascribed.

The first which claims our attention, and which most frequently occurs, is the virulent Gonorrhoea, or *Clap*. The second, which is not less dangerous in its consequences, and generally more tedious in its cure, is called the Lues Venerea.

Many arguments have been brought forward, and much disputation has existed

isted concerning the origin and the antiquity of these complaints.

The Venereal Disease was first described with accuracy about the end of the fifteenth century; and as this was the time when Columbus returned from America, it has been strenuously asserted by many, that his followers introduced it into Europe; by others it is supposed to have prevailed long before America was discovered, and to have been known to the Jews, the Greeks, and the Romans, while there are not wanting those who will bring arguments to prove, that the Leprosy of the Ancients was precisely the disease of the present day.

I am not inclined to enter at present into this controversy, as the discussion of this subject would be more adapted to a complete Treatise, which the avocations of my business, at the present period, will not allow me to offer for public perusal.

For the entertainment, however, of those who may be amused by such a discussion, I beg to recommend in this controversy, Mr. WILLIAM BECKET, late Surgeon in London, who published three Dissertations in the thirtieth and thirty first volumes of the Philosophical Transactions, where he, in a very able and masterly manner, endeavours to prove the introduction of the disorder prior to the discovery of America ; and that the present Clap is the continuation of the *Brenning*, or *Burning*, which, from public ordinances was known to exist in the year 1162. The chief leader on the other side of the question, is Dr. ASTRUE, formerly Physician to Louis XV. who, in a most elaborate performance, has attempted to refute Mr. BECKET's arguments, and asserts the introduction of the disease to be only coeval with the return of Columbus.

It would be endless to enumerate the variety of diseases, which are the consequences

sequences of mismanagement in these complaints, but which, by proper treatment, will seldom or never occur.

Some of these will be distinguished in the course of the ensuing remarks ; but I shall not observe much method in my observations, as neither the intention, nor the limits of this Essay will admit of a regular system.

Of the GONORRHOEA; or, CLAP.

THIS is, by far, the most frequent species of the complaint, and if judiciously treated by a skilful practitioner, and attentively regarded by the patient, a speedy and complete cure is very easily accomplished.

It

It is true, that cases will occasionally happen, in which we are disappointed by the protraction of the cure, to a tedious length of time, even under the use of the most efficacious remedies with which we are acquainted; but I have always considered such cases to have originated when a prior disease had existed in the constitution; and after giving proper attention to this additional excitement, I have scarcely ever failed in the renewal of my efforts.

The virulent Gonorrhoea, in its first stage, is a diseased affection of the urinary canal, communicated by venereal poison and attended with a discharge which generally appears upon the linen.

It may be accompanied with pain and inflammation, or otherwise; and it is frequently, but not always, preceded by a ticklish sensation on the glans, or along the course of the urethra.

A sense

A sense of fullness and tightness is sometimes felt over the under part of the penis, and the orifice will appear of a more deep red colour than usual, and more tender to the touch. The urine comes away in a more contracted stream, and frequently with uneasiness or difficulty, before any discharge has made its appearance, or the patient has any other reason to suspect his mischance.

At this onset of the complaint, great advantage will be obtained by immediate assistance ; for the hopes of a speedy cure are, in some degree, frustrated by the least procrastination.

The period at which any discharge takes place after exposure to the venereal virus, is extremely uncertain. I have seen instances of its appearance within four hours after connection, and I have at other times known it to lay dormant as long as six weeks. Preciseness in the calculations of safety cannot there-

therefore be attained, but it is to be observed the most usual time of its appearance is the third or fourth day.

If application is prudently made at the commencement of the disease, a cure is not unfrequently obtained in two or three days, provided that the constitution be not unfavorable to health, and the proper medicines punctually administered.

Some of the old school of physic have confidently pronounced it quackery to profess the cure of a complaint in the short period of *three days*, but I venture to differ from them, so far as to consider it the most detestable inhumanity to prolong the sufferings of a patient by a tedious ineffectual process, which instead of ensuring a lasting cure, (as they may assert) must inevitably induce deplorable debility, and lay the foundation for future indisposition.

It

It is not by a *speedy*, but by an *injurious* treatment, that the injury is incurred, and the practitioner deserves the imputation of empiricism.

The medical drone, who slowly and cautiously drenches his patient to swell the apothecary's bill, may with equal misfortune counteract the powers of nature, as the rash pretender, who, by endeavouring to overstep her efforts, risks his own reputation, and the health of those who entrust him.

A man of sense will not object to a cure merely because it is more speedy than the usual method, but he will require the improvement to have rational reflection for its origin, and the success of experience for its justification.

If to a local complaint we apply a local remedy, and by internal medicines at the same time prevent injury to the constitution, from that debility which is
more

more or less the unavoidable consequence of this complaint, we shall have the satisfaction of having effected a complete restoration by a *lasting* as well as an *expeditious* method.

It will in all cases be absolutely requisite, as a means of counteracting debility, to take the internal remedies for a fortnight after every symptom has subsided. Constitutions vary so much, and the habits of men so widely differ, that what appears to the patient a slight case, will frequently turn out tedious and troublesome.

The most important point to consider, is the extreme propriety of an immediate application, when the slightest sensations are felt, that gives us reason to dread so formidable an enemy ; for by an instant opposition to its progress, all danger is prevented, and the expedition of the cure is only to be equalled by the ease with which it is effected.

It

It is the principal characteristic of an experienced surgeon to distinguish certain cases of disease, which however slight in their first appearances, gradually increase to the most alarming tendency, and tediously resist every effort of medicine, from those complaints, where the virus may be immediately decomposed, and the constitution almost instantly renovated by the skill of an intelligent practitioner.

All the ill consequences of the Gonorrhoea may be ascribed without hesitation, to the ignorance of the medical attendant, or to the inattention of him or his patient. In the plan of treatment which I have practised, I may presume to assert, that where application has been made in the first progress of the disease, and the patient has properly confided, the termination has been in every instance favorable.

Many apothecaries, respectable in their line of practice, but guilty of usurpation when they intermeddle with surgery, are

in the habit of giving mercurial pills and a cooling electuary for a slight Gonorrhoea. Now it is a fact, that in a Gonorrhoea mercury is pernicious, and no internal medicine whatever can of itself effect a cure. It is true, that after the worst remedies the discharge may have subsided, but from such injudicious treatment the parts have lost their tone, and debility is the lamentable consequence of this prejudice to modern improvement.

In general, after the method, which too many practitioners follow, the victim of their incapacity feels langour, lowness of spirits, and occasionally a loss of appetite, or other symptoms of relaxation. If these are not succeeded by more serious inconveniences, he may consider himself fortunate: While, on the other hand, by counteracting this tendency to relaxation, which is the property of the restorative plan that I am in the habit of prescribing, the local affection is not only removed, but the constitution strengthened and invigorated. In

In every case of Gonorrhoea, if advice is resorted to on the first day of its appearance, an injection will be proper, unless some former disease had existed in the urethra, which might forbid a local application of this nature. The vitriolated zine has been preferred by most of the faculty, but the relief which it procures is frequently of a temporary nature, and much better effect may be answered by adding to the composition certain quantities of opium and camphor. At the same time it must be recollected, that of each ingredient the proportion is to be varied according to the particular nature of the case, and the age or constitution of the patient.

The best injections, according to my experience, are those of which the balsams are predominant articles in the composition; as after a failure of all the vitriolic preparations, I have seldom unsuccessfully applied certain solutions of Balsamum Canadense, or even the common Balsam of Capivi.

It

It is the desirable province of an experienced professor to proportion with exactness the quantity of each ingredient, according to the peculiarity of the case. This art cannot be transmitted by books, and is only to be acquired by much reflection in the field of an extensive practice.

Mercury has been employed by many practitioners in the composition of an injection. My observation has induced me to lay it entirely aside. It will not act as a specific, and as an astringent or stimulant, there are many articles of the Materia Medica much more innocent, and equally efficacious. But in every case of Gonorrhoea, it is not so much the quality as the quantity of each ingredient for injection, which requires the modification of experience, and must be varied according to the indication of every symptom.

Many astringents, if prescribed at an early period of the complaint, will give
a tem-

a temporary stop to the discharge. Infusions of green tea, mixtures of water with red port or claret, solutions of alum, or even common spring water will frequently have this effect ; but to the disappointment of the patient the running returns with redoubled violence, and after having debilitated the parts by this ineffectual process, less delusive methods are resorted to for a permanent restoration.

Mr. BELL, of Edinburgh, who has been eminently distinguished by his system of surgery, asserts that a virulent Gonorrhoea has been thoroughly cured in *three days*, merely by altering the quantities of each ingredient for the same injection, which prescribed in improper proportions had failed of removing the disorder in three months.

It is, therefore, that the aid of medical advice cannot be procured by the perusal of a pamphlet, nor can any one
 nostrum

nostrum, however good of its kind, deserve consideration unless accompanied with surgical attendance.

I cannot omit this opportunity of expressing my satisfaction, that the plan of curing a Gonorrhoea in three days, is now sanctioned by the sentiments of a surgeon, who is indisputably considered the first of his profession in Scotland.

When the discharge which was excited by a virulent Gonorrhoea continues for a considerable length of time, although the pain and every symptom of inflammation had entirely subsided, the disease is converted into that which is termed a gleet, and requires a very different mode of cure, from what might at first be considered proper. This is the most frequent termination of the disorder where the remedies have been improperly prescribed; administered in injudicious proportions, or where attention

tion has not been paid to the age, habit, and constitution of the patient.

If a gleet is suffered to go on without remedies, or with a treatment calculated for its protraction, the invariable consequence is, that the most dangerous occurrences ensue in the form of obstructions, strictures, fistulæ in perinæo, &c. &c.

A gleet will be cured in a fortnight or three weeks by proper injections, although it had existed to the vexation of the patient and the indelible disgrace of the surgeon, for months or even years, under an absurd perseverance in the old practice of the schools.

It must be allowed that in many cases of gleet, upon examination a stricture or obstruction will be found to exist, and when such a discovery is made, our prognosis cannot be equally favorable.

A stric-

A stricture very frequently escapes notice for a considerable time, but if neglected or injudiciously treated, it will inevitably increase to the most alarming degree of danger and distress.

It is too much the practice among those who dip into all the branches of medicine, to give the same routine of prescription for every case of Gonorrhoea. This plan may in some few instances prove successful, but in others it must be followed by the most pernicious effects.

We should carefully consider the natural temperament of the patient, and the means of relief should be adapted to the frame of his constitution.

It does not require a prior knowledge much less a long acquaintance with a person, to enable us to form an accurate idea of the subject; for the experience of a surgeon well versed in this line of
prac-

practice will point out to him at the first interview whether the constitution of his patient be strong and plethoric, or weak and irritable.

The local affections will assist him in the discovery, and as far as local applications can be brought to correspond with the constitutional tendency, we should never lose sight of this coincidence in our medical treatment.

In the strong plethoric constitution, the effects will be more violent, the pain greater, and the inflammation more alarming; but on the other hand the cure will be far more speedy, and the consequences much less dangerous.

In weak irritable constitutions, I have known the disease extend itself along the whole course of the urethra, and sometimes even the bladder itself has been affected.

Here

Here we must allay irritability, and frequently support nature by strengthening remedies. The Cinchona, or Peruvian Bark, has in such cases been attended with wonderful success. But it is to be recollected that great caution is required in the determination, for if the prescriber is mistaken in recommending it, the symptoms are sure to be increased, and the effects of it will be dangerously pernicious.

After we have treated a case with due observance to these dictates, it will then be requisite to pursue such a line of conduct as will prevent that state of debility, which I before noticed is so much to be dreaded in these complaints. This cannot be done by the usual prescription of bark, cold bathing, or steel, but by peculiar local applications adapted to the constitution, removing the diseased action of the parts and substituting the invigoration of health.

In

In *Women*, the cure of Gonorrhoea is nearly similar to that plan which we prescribe for men, but the consequences of the complaint are less numerous, and attended with much less danger or inconvenience.

The great difficulty in those cases which have occurred to me, has been to convince the women of their perfect recovery, as where they have suffered from the infidelity or the imprudence of the other sex, they are not easily induced to consider themselves completely renovated.

Some of the most eminent surgeons have strenuously insisted on the propriety of local examination. In most cases I consider this perfectly unnecessary; for if we are well acquainted with the degrees of inveteracy of the complaint which existed in those by whom it has been communicated, we can easily form
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our estimate, without hurting the delicacy of a virtuous female by a more minute enquiry.

In cases of a peculiar nature, where the symptoms are uncommon and inveterate, or where the patients are of a certain class of females, liable to every misfortune from pernicious intercourse, we cannot proceed with equal certainty unless we take other methods of ascertaining the nature of the affection.

Women suffer less in this disorder, because the urethra is not so lengthened, and is less liable to inflammation, nor is it so irritable as the seat of the disease in men.

If the vagina only is affected, local applications, with a very few internal balsamics will speedily effect a cure; but if a gleet is once suffered to be produced, it may be confounded with other affections, and the removal of it
may

may be procrastinated to a considerable length of time.

Some have recommended an ointment of mercury, but I have never known any good effects from its application in Gonorrhoea, and therefore never put the patient to the unpleasantness of using it.

In the Chordee to which men are subject, I have advised common pomatum as equally efficacious.

The injections for women must be double the strength of those for men, and should be applied at least seven or eight times in the day.

The best syringes for either men or women, are those composed of elastic gum, and of these the points of the tubes should be blunt, unless a sharp point be rendered necessary by particular formation.

Of STRICTURES.

ONE of the most common and the most important consequences of a Gonorrhoea, is a stricture or obstruction of the urethra. There are various kinds, attended with different degrees of danger and distress, but the symptoms of each are so similar to the rest, that much attention is requisite for an exact discrimination.

Strictures are not confined to the urinary canal, as they are to be met with in other passages of the human frame; in the oesophagus, in the intestines, especially the rectum, in the anus, in the lachrymal duct, the consequence of which is a distressing complaint termed

med fistulæ lachrymalis; and in the prepuçæ, the consequence of which is a phymosis.

They may happen in the urethra when no venereal complaint had ever existed, and they occur as commonly after the slightest cases of Gonorrhoea, if means are not applied to prevent them, as after the most obstinate or violent affections of that nature.

I have known twenty or thirty years intervene between the cure of a Gonorrhoea, as the practitioner styled his operations, and the first symptom of a stricture. Although the disease remains latent for years, yet the origin of a stricture can scarcely be attributed to so distant a period, unless we allow the propriety of an additional excitement.

A man who has been affected by a Gonorrhoea, if he observes the smallest alteration in the performance of those offices

fices for which the urinary canal is intended, will do well to investigate the occasion thereof, as much future misery may be prevented by a timely application of medicinal aid.

The disorder, although it may to all appearance remain stationary for a considerable period, never fails in reality to increase by gradations, however imperceptible; for there is no instance upon record where a stricture has been cured by the unassisted efforts of nature.

The first symptoms will frequently for months, or years, escape the notice of the patient; and even medical men, who have not paid much attention to these complaints, have been guilty of inadvertence by confounding the treatment of stricture with that of a gleet, although the plan of cure is perfectly dissimilar, and that which would be proper in one case, may add to the inveteracy of the other.

I con-

I confess this misconduct can only occur to those whose intellectual abilities are not very acute; but I am almost daily consulted in cases, where strictures had absolutely existed under the exhibition of those corroborants and stimulants which are directed for the removal of gleans. The astonishing amendment which instantly ensues from a direct change of treatment, revives the drooping spirits of the desponding patient.

In all obstructions the stream of urine is more or less diminished, but a person may have a stricture for a great length of time before he observes this contraction of the urinary canal.

A stricture does not generally occupy a considerable space of the urethra. Upon dissection it will frequently be discovered that the seat of obstruction is not wider than the size of packthread; at times it will however be found very extensive.

The

The situation also of a stricture varies, but it is most commonly about the bottom part of the urethra.

The same stricture is not always equally bad; in warm weather it is much less troublesome and dangerous than in cold, and consequently in the summer it is not so much to be dreaded as in the winter season.

The Bougie is one of the most useful inventions in medical surgery. About half a Century back this branch of practice was deplorably deficient. DARAN, a French surgeon, brought Bougies into general use; although the composition which is said to be his invention, is marked with much absurdity, and disgraced by the most detestable inhumanity.

To a prescription of oil, wax &c. he gives the addition of *a living pigeon plucked* and half a pint of port wine, which are to be *boiled* together; and lastly, is to be added

added a certain quantity of the burnt sole of a shoe, finely powdered.

Empiricism has sometimes its utility, and the most beneficial effects have been produced by the bold practice of those whom the rest of the faculty have despised. DARAN benefited mankind by the enthusiasm with which he recommended his Bougies, although it is now universally allowed, that their shape and consistence were the only indispensable requisites.

Strictures may be cured by the simple introduction of Bougies acting as wedges, or by ulceration, or lastly by caustic ; but in all cases under every method, internal remedies must give efficiency to the local applications.

Strictures may occur in women as well as in men, but the consequences to that sex are seldom so dangerous, and never so complicated or perplexing as in the other.

A swell

A swelling of one or both testicles will frequently occur during the use of Bougies, but these affections are speedily removed by proper treatment; and the process of cure must be renewed with the greatest attention and circumspection.

Ill-directed efforts have generally occasioned this impediment to the cure, but it may occur under the best mode of treatment in irritable constitutions, or where exposure to cold has unfortunately intervened.

Of the LUES VENEREA,

HOWEVER strongly we may recommend a speedy cure of the Gonorrhoea Virulenta, the disease of which we now come to treat, in the very earliest stages of

of it requires much perseverance for the purpose of re-establishment.

It is generally but not always preceded by a chancre, and whenever this or any appearance takes place which induces me to decide that the case is venereal, I constantly have recourse to the alterative plan for a considerable length of time.

This disease must either be transmitted by the parent, or communicated through the application of the Venereal Virus. Any part of the skin may receive the contagion, but the manner in which it is most usually obtained is a circumstance too well known to require explanation.

There is a general series, by which the several symptoms succeed each other, if the means prescribed are unsuccessful

successful in the application. The list is as follows :

Chancres, first appearing in the form of a pimple.

Buboes, or swellings in the groin.

Ulceration of the throat.

Ulcers on the mouth or nose.

Eruptions.

Ulcers on different parts of the body

Nodes.

Excrescences about certain parts.

Swellings of the testes.

Falling off of the hair.

Blindness, Deafness, &c. &c.

The regularity of this succession is not constant, but it will frequently guide us in forming a just prognosis of the disorder.

The first appearance may be formed in a few hours, or not till six weeks after the time of connection ; four or five days is the most usual period.

The

The external symptoms of the Lues will very frequently be removed in a few days, but as the mode of giving mercurials with certain correctors, which I practice, is in most cases unattended with the least inconvenience; I think it prudent, should every symptom immediately subside, still to persist in the mercurial course for the period of a fortnight or three weeks.

It is not the *use* but the *abuse* of mercury which has occasioned those fatal events which have been so feelingly deplored, and have tended to intimidate the patient from this invaluable remedy. There are those correctors of mercury which will render it as innocent as any vegetable preparation, provided that the surgeon is careful to administer the dose in proper proportions, and to alter the regimen according to the variation of the dose.

Confinement to the house is seldom requisite, never indispensibly so; but
the

the mercury mixed with other articles of the materia medica should be gradually and almost imperceptibly introduced into the system, so that the bowels be not affected, or too much tendency to salivation produced.

The correctors of mercury which are most generally in estimation, are camphor, opium, and sulphur; but no regular practice of this kind will always suffice, as in many constitutions neither opium or camphor will agree, and other articles must therefore be resorted to.

It occurred to my mind that certain preparations of antimony would supply the deficiency which I experienced in the use of these correctors, and I have had the satisfaction to find those preparations supersede the necessity of every other.

It was formerly the practice to propose salivation as a cure for the slightest affec-

affection of the Lues, but it has been proved by the test of experience that less nauseous methods will answer the same purpose.

The re-establishment is much more certainly as well as more easily procured, by an imperceptible introduction of the mercurial process, which in the hands of the unskilful becomes a deleterious poison, but when cautiously and scientifically administered, it eradicates every vestige of the Venereal Virus, and never fails to effectuate a complete restoration.

Hints upon **BARRENNESS.**

BARRENNESS is a species of inability, upon the removal of which has frequently depended the happiness of the most illustrious families; and indeed people of every rank are interested in this enquiry, as without the pleasure of transmitting those possessions or advantages which we enjoy to our descendants, life must lose one of its greatest sources of satisfaction, and be deprived of the most rational spur to future acquisitions.

At a period of existence, when our cotemporaries are blessed with the prattle of infantine simplicity, it is natural for us to enquire, if the deficiency which we regret is of an incurable nature, or whether it may not, as most of our defects may be, radically removed by the art of medicine.

Ste-

Sterility is a subject on which we can only obtain information by our natural judgment, general medical knowledge, or the improvement to be acquired by experience, as there is scarcely a medical book in which it is even mentioned.

In the circle however of every one's acquaintance, instances occur of women, who, after having been barren for a very long period, have at last been blessed with the pleasing title of a parent.

Now, this alteration must have been effected by the power of Medicine, or by some great change in the constitution of the one sex or the other.

Whether the defect is to be attributed to the male or female, it becomes the duty of either party to endeavour by every prudent method to restore the powers of nature, and fulfil those offices which are owing to society and to the partner of the marriage state.

Incu-

Incurable sterility can only exist in women that have past the age of child-bearing, which period varies in different constitutions, or where there is a malformation in the structure of those parts which are essential to propagation.

The age at which women cease to have children, is much more protracted than generally considered; for we have instances in our own times, as well as in ancient history, where women have been delivered at a very advanced period of life.

We are most frequently consulted however, for the removal of Barrenness in young women, and when we rightly understand the cause, little difficulty occurs in the means of restoration.

In the greater part of cases the deficiency has arisen from some derangement of the menstrual discharge. Women are subject to this change in constitution,

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at what is called the age of puberty, and from this period they are capable of conceiving children. The warmer the climate, the sooner appears the menstrual evacuation. In *Greece*, and other hot countries, women menstruate at eight, nine, or ten years of age. On the contrary, in *Lapland* they have not the least appearance of this alteration, till they arrive at a more mature period, and then the intervals are much more distant, and the discharge much less in quantity.

If the menstrual evacuation is either too small or too large in quantity, attended with much pain, difficulty, or illness, we from this information have obtained the greatest desideratum towards an accurate comprehension of the subject, and by directing the efforts of nature to her proper offices, we can easily remove that cause of sterility which would otherwise have existed through the whole period of life.

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The plan which I occasionally recommend, is widely different from that stimulating system, which has hitherto been indiscriminately advised by those who attempt this line of practice.

Instead of nutritive jellies, and similar modes of invigoration, an antiphlogistic method will very frequently succeed by lessening the redundancy of the vessels, and restoring the obstructed powers of nature.

On the other hand it must be acknowledged that in many cases where Barrenness is to be removed, some stimulus to the constitution will be requisite.

A proper distinction must be made between a *want of energy*, and an *excess of animal vivacity*; for upon this distinction will greatly depend the certainty of success.

It would not suit the delicacy which I have endeavoured to observe in this
pub-

publication, if I entered more minutely into the present enquiry. Medical dissertations are not always calculated for the perusal of juvenile minds; and though the subjects of which I treat are of the utmost importance to the welfare of the present and rising generation, to society in general, as well as to individuals in particular; I have nevertheless taken care that the discussion shall not be sullied by the gratification of improper curiosity.

I trust that in directing my attention to Barrenness, I have done some little service to the community in general; for few are inclined to wish for children who possess not very amply the means of supporting them.

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I have endeavoured to observe in this
It would not suit the delicacy which

*On IMPOTENCE, and the Debilitating
Consequences of a certain Habit.*

IMPOTENCE may be defined an inability in the male to perform those functions which are requisite for the propagation of the species.

This is sometimes the consequence of free living, it is very frequently occasioned by long continued gleans, or ill cured Gonorrhoeas ; but the most general cause of it is that pernicious habit which is too often prevalent among school-boys, and to which much future misery is the unavoidable punishment.

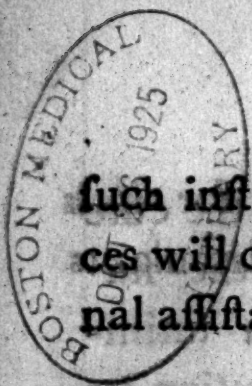
Of that species of inability which is excited by free living, or by too much indulgence
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in the rites of Bacchus or Venus, the cure is not generally very difficult, if the stamina of the constitution remain unimpaired, and the patient has resolution to persevere in such plans as may be requisite for his restoration.

There sometimes exists an incurable Impotence, but I am inclined to suppose that such cases owe their inveteracy either to improper medical treatment, or to an excess of anxiety in the patient.

To be perfectly incurable implies a loss of power which neither the art of medicine can restore, nor perseverance in any regimen re-establish.

In most cases where other practitioners have failed, I have observed, that the patient's distress of mind forms one grand characteristic of the complaint: By irritation of constant uneasiness upon the nervous system, affections of this nature acquire uncommon obduracy, and in all
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such instances proper advice and assurances will considerably expedite the medicinal assistance.

Bark, cold bathing, strengthening diet, and port wine, which are so invariably and so regularly recommended by the few medical men who attend to these disorders, have not, in my opinion, the smallest tendency to restoration.

Upon enquiry it will be discovered that those who suffer all the horrors of these complaints, have not unfrequently every other symptom of strength. Their appetite is good, they can take exercise in a moderate degree without fatigue, and the debility which afflicts them is merely local: Why then should we drench such patients with corroborants, or how can any medicine avail, which has not a peculiar mode of action upon the generative faculties?

Some have prescribed certain stimulating articles of the materia medica, but these

these are equally inefficacious, for it is neither by corroborants nor stimulants that real benefit can be obtained.

Pernicious and dangerous stimuli will tend to increase the disease, but balsamic preparations, conjoined with those remedies which have the power of diminishing irritability when cautiously and scientifically administered, give us a prospect of a permanent as well as a speedy re-establishment.

The practice for which *Onan* suffered death, is so sinful in its nature, and so dreadfully destructive in its effects, that the world were astonished when the late **MR. HUNTER** seemed to disregard its danger, and to palliate its evil tendency. The unthinking youth who enervates himself by this habit, not only draws his attention from a superior pleasure, but inevitably brings upon himself years of repentance, if not absolutely a shortening of existence.

Young

ai Young people are frequently miserable from a belief that their complaints are incurable, when in reality the appearances which alarm them, instead of being the consequences of deplorable debility, are entirely excited by increased secretion of the seminal fluid.

I now for the present drop the subject; and indeed it has been with difficulty I have appropriated a few hours from the avocations of my profession, to guard the practitioner against the corroborating or stimulating system.

If these remarks shall tend in the smallest degree to the improvement of practice, or to the restoration of one individual's health, perhaps perishing under the old mode of treatment, I shall not feel dissatisfied that in this public Essay, as well as in private practice, I have directed my attention to those disorders which other surgeons have contemptuously neglected.